

Claims

We claim:

Sub A 5
~~1. A feeding and picking device for feeding and picking a standing agricultural crop wherein individual plants in the crop are provided with plant stalks, the device comprising a rotating feeding element having a feeding radius, the rotating feeding element grasp plant stalks and directs the plant stalks to a picking device which separates useable parts from the plant stalks, a chopping device chops the plant stalks, the chopping device has a chopping radius that overlaps the feeding radius of the feeding device.~~

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2. A feeding and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein the feeding ^{device} element acts as a counterknife to the chopping device.

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3. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein the picking device has a length and the chopping radius of the chopping device extends throughout the length of the picking device.

4. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 3 wherein the chopping radius of the chopping device extends to an area upstream from the picking device.

Sub A 20
~~5. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein the chopping device has a chopping axis and the feeding device has a feeding axis and these axes correspond to one another.~~

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6. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein the picking device has a rear end and the chopping device is mounted on the rear end of the picking device.

7. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein the feeding device is provided with an upper feeding element which is mounted above the picking device.

8. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein the feeding device is provided with a lower feeding element which is mounted beneath the chopping device.

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9. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein the feeding device is provided with an upper feeding element and a lower feeding element, and the chopping device is provided with at least one chopping knife, the chopping knife being located between the upper and lower feeding elements.

10. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 9 wherein at least one of the lower feeding element and the upper feeding element is designed to transport grasped plants throughout the length of the picking device.

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11. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 10 wherein the upper feeding element has a leading surface with a rejecting transporting action and a trailing surface with an aggressive transporting action.

Sub A 3
~~12. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 11 wherein the chopping~~

Sub A3
device has a chopping axis and the feeding device has a feeding axis, the chopping axis and the feeding axis are approximately parallel to one another.

13. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 12 wherein the chopping axis is substantially vertical.

Sub A4 5
~~14. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 13 wherein the chopping device rotates in a chopping direction and the feeding element rotates in a feeding direction, the shopping direction and the feeding direction are identical.~~

15. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 13 wherein the chopping device rotates in a chopping direction and the feeding element rotates in a feeding direction,
10 ~~the chopping direction and the feeding direction are opposite.~~

16. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 13 wherein the chopping knife has a front cutting edge and a rear cutting edge.

17. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 13 wherein the chopping knife is rigidly mounted to the chopping device

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18. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 13 wherein the chopping knife is suspended from the chopping device so that it oscillates.

19. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 13 wherein the chopping knife has a smooth edge.

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20. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 13 wherein the chopping knife has a splicing knife.

21. The feeding and picking device as defined by claim 1 further comprising a guiding mechanism for depositing chopped plant material in the form of a windrow.